

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 06155 150148Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1681
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6155

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQ UN MISSION ACQUISITION OF FIREARMS

REF: STATE 302691

1. AMB BENNETT, ACCOMPANIED BY MISOFF GLENNON AND
US CUSTOMS OFFICER KING, MET WITH IRAQ PERM REP
AL-SHAIKHLY AT 3:00 PM DECEMBER 14. MEETING TOOK
PLACE AT THE UN. AL-SHAIKHLY STILL INSISTS THAT ONLY
70 WEAPONS WERE DELIVERED TO HIS MISSION. HE SAID,
HOWEVER, HE WOULD ONCE AGAIN CHECK WITH AL-TAYYAR.

2. AMB BENNETT COVERED ALL THE TALKING POINTS OF
REFTEL, BEGINNING WITH AN EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION
FOR AL-SHAIKHLY'S COOPERATION "SO FAR". BENNETT
SAID THE TRANSFER OF THE WEAPONS TO US CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES
WENT SMOOTHLY ON SATURDAY, EXCEPT THAT ONLY 70 WEAPONS WERE
TURNED OVER WHEN WE HAD PROOF THAT 100 HAD BEEN DELIVERED
TO THE IRAQ MISSION. BENNETT STRESSED SEVERAL TIMES
THE SERIOUSNESS THAT US GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THIS
MATTER AND THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR AL-TAYYAR AND
THE IRAQ MISSION IF THE ADDITIONAL 30 WEAPONS ARE NOT
SURRENDERED. CONTINUING, BENNETT STATED THAT THE
GUNS MUST BE TURNED OVER TO US AUTHORITIES WHETHER OR
NOT THEY ARE STILL IN THIS COUNTRY.

3. AL-SHAIKHLY REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE WAS
SURE ONLY 70 WEAPONS HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO HIS MISSION,
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SINCE HE HAD QUERIED AL-TAYYAR ON THE MATTER. HE

NEVERTHELESS AGREED TO CHECK WITH AL-TAYYAR ONCE AGAIN AND FURNISH US THE RESULTS. AL-SHAIKHLY WAS TOLD OF THE MARKINGS ON THE BOXES -- I.E., 1/4, 2/4, 3/4. HE WAS ALSO SHOWN A COPY OF THE TRUCKER'S RECEIPT WHICH INDICATES THAT 4 PARCELS WERE DELIVERED ON NOVEMBER 12, 1976.

4. CUSTOMS AGENT KING ASKED AL-SHAIKHLY FOR A COPY OF THE PURCHASE ORDER, TO WHICH THE TRAFALCON LETTER OF NOVEMBER 17 REFERRED, TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT INCLUDED OTHER WEAPON ATTACHMENTS SUCH AS SILENCERS, FLASH DEPRESSORS, OR SCOPES. AL-SHAIKHLY STATED HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WAS A WRITTEN PURCHASE ORDER AND INSISTED THE AGREEMENT WAS A VERBAL ONE. HE WOULD, HOWEVER, CHECK WITH AL-TAYYAR. AGENT KING ASKED FOR ANY CORRESPONDENCE OR DOCUMENTATION THAT MAY EXIST RELATING TO THE TRANSACTION. AL-SHAIKHLY SAID HE WOULD CHECK AND HAVE ANSWERS BY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16.

5. IN PARTING, BENNETT ONCE AGAIN STATED TO AL-SHAIKHLY THAT THERE REMAINS A SERIOUS PROBLEM BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AND THE PERSONNEL OF THE IRAQ MISSION UNTIL THE 30 MISSING WEAPONS ARE TURNED OVER.
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Message Attributes

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